



Commission of Food Security, Heritage, and Economy

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Commission on Food Security, Heritage, and Economy and to the general public that the Commission will hold the following meeting which will be open to the public on:

Monday September 16, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

El Banco Building: Pima Country Housing Center
801 W Congress St, Tucson, Arizona

Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m.

Present:

Rani Olsen

Dan McDonald

Kara Jones

Mike Peel

Doug Taren

Erik Stanford

Loni Anderson

Pat Burns (staff support)

Claire Kaufman (guest from Ward 6, former staff support)

Absent:

Robert Ojeda

Joy Hought

Claudio Rodriguez

Marie Long

Ryan Clark

2. Approval of Minutes – August 19th, 2019

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes. Doug seconded. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

3. Announcements

No announcements; move on to next item.

4. Discussion: Recap of last meeting guest speakers

- Desired outcomes and next steps from these conversations?

Rani explained that this is the third meeting with presentations from other community groups. Asked those in attendance if they thought this was still a good direction? Doug said it's still a good path forward. Rani

said they'll have a recap of the presentations at the November meeting. Mike asked if those groups who didn't respond to an invite will be followed up with. Rani said yes, in November.

- Subcommittee to plan Tucson Meet Yourself Food Conversation?

Rani explained that at the last meeting there was discussion about the commission having a tent at Tucson Meet Yourself and that it's moving forward, asked for discussion of details and a possible formation of a subcommittee for planning.

Erik said there is a reservation for a 2 hour slot on Saturday, October 12th from 1-3pm. Dan said he'd be willing to help but will be out of town on the 12th. Claire said a subcommittee will need to be a publicly noticed meeting.

Rani and Doug can both be at the booth. Rani asked if they should invite groups that have spoken to the committee to be at the booth, subcommittee may engage them.

Erik explained that there will be a Food Justice Expo tent where there will be 6 groups: City of Gastronomy, Pima County Food Alliance, Café 54, Tierra y Libertad, Locas, and Iskashitaa.

Dan said maybe we could have a panel discussion with reps from other groups then a Q and A? Rani suggested sharing impediments to increase support and capacity. Doug suggested a conversation on SNAP benefits being cut.

The subcommittee will be Rani, Dan, Doug and Loni. Erik will be point person for festival.

Doug made motion to establish subcommittee, Mike seconded. Vote carried unanimously.

5. Guest Presentation: City of Gastronomy

Felipe Garcia is with Visit Tucson and working to tie our designation as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy to the community. They're working on a mission statement and will need to have a report every 4 years on how we've used the designation and benefited from it. Need to show a balance between food economy and job economy.

Historical work and work that lies ahead:

- Developing a community food asset inventory
- Culinary training for local food sourcing with Pima Comm College
- Possible degree program with PCC and UA
- Restaurant designation in future, number of ways for restaurants to qualify as a certified Tucson City of Gastronomy Restaurant.
- Sending Tucson chefs around the world for training and best practices
- Created nonprofit, now raising money
- Being a model for other cities with the designation but no staff in government offices to help promote.

Mike mentioned they're also working on food justice, Erik mentioned the water policy work and gathering bread recipes from around the world. Felipe said they're also working with the Eller school to market our food systems.

Erik brought up the food asset inventory and what it includes, farmers markets, community farms, emergency food, it's mapped out and will go live on a website soon with an interactive map.

Rani asked if there are any gaps? Felipe said they hope to collaborate more in the future with food events.

Dan asked about the 4 year report, any chance we'll lose the designation? Felipe responded most likely not, Jonathan Mabry has been brought on as Exec. Director and is helping to draft the report to submit next year.

Rani asked what the make up of the group was. Felipe responded that it's local governments, PCC, chefs, would like to get the Pascua Yaqui involved. The website is www.tucsoncityofgastronomy.org

Rani asked about any obstacles. Felipe responded, financial resources are needed, raising the name ID of UNESCO, it's very well known in other countries but not in US. Due to financial constraints, participation in UNESCO events in other countries is difficult.

Doug asked where the current financial support is coming from. Felipe responded from City of Tucson, Pima County, Marana, Visit Tucson, PCC, UA, fundraisers for the chef exchange program.

Rani asked about how they want to grow. Felipe responded ramping up with more programs, maybe getting an app for an inventory of local food.

Kara asked what the model is for a board for this. Felipe replied that theirs is a working board but others in other countries have paid staff.

Rani asked if there are ways to resolve issues. Felipe said for now, assess how things are going from year to year and adapt.

6. Guest Presentation: Center for Regional Food Studies

Megan Carney is with the Center for Regional Food Studies at the UA. She explained that the group has limited time, niche is in social sciences and community engagement a couple collaborations at a time. There's a lot of programming geared to academics and they also want public programming for community engagement. She inherited the center two years ago and when it was formed it had a much bigger vision that has since been scaled down in order to not duplicate what others in the community are doing. This year they started a 2 year theme of "Just Nourishment," with the Dunbar African American Cultural Center. This is a collaboration with them on what health and wellness should look like, particularly in communities of color. A series of free workshops will begin in 2 weeks, have different facilitators and then in the spring, national speakers will be brought in.

Megan then spoke about the State of the Tucson Food System Report for 2018-2019. The strategy for the report was to pool data from other groups and agencies and use value based systems to organize the data. Asking other groups to advocate for change with the data from the report. For the next report they'll democratize and decentralize the process and include rural areas and make it a participatory process. After report is complete, will have a dissemination plan for collaborators. The center will provide tech assistance to each to help them mobilize.

The center is made up of faculty working on it part time, a community advisory board and sometimes interns. For the future report they hope to link videos as well. Trying to help build capacity in community groups to have more input in policy.

Doug said there's a program to train public health advocates with Project Central. Megan said the Sonoran Food Shed is something they want to expand into northern Mexico in the future.

Rani asked about any other impediments. Megan replied that the center doesn't really have a physical space but there's a possibility of that in the future when the Dunbar Center renovates. They'd like to also bring on more staff in the form of researchers. Time is an impediment, as is a question of a specific mission sometimes.

Doug asked both Felipe and Megan what they'd both like the Mayor and Council to know. Felipe responded with they are going to have a dialogue with each Ward to find out what's needed in each one. Megan said that's difficult to answer since they take more of a regional approach. Dan suggested that the work with the Dunbar center could identify gaps and make suggestions.

7. Future Agenda Items

Next meeting is October 21st which will include a report from Tucson Meet Yourself

8. Call to the Audience

There were no audience members.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.